AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-29. (Canceled)

30.   **(currently amended)** A transaction information processing apparatus that is connected to a plurality of transaction terminal units via a network, for processing information relating to a predetermined transaction item, the transaction information processing apparatus comprising:

a subscription information storage unit which stores a subscription total number or a subscription total amount as a condition for inviting bids for the transaction item;

a bid information storage unit which stores a bid unit price and a bid_total number or a bid total amount transmitted from_each of a plurality of bidders via the_respective transaction terminal unit; and

a successful bid processing unit_operable to carry ~~which carries~~ out a successful bid processing of the transaction item, based on the subscription total number or the subscription total amount stored in the subscription information storage unit, and the bid unit prices and the bid numbers or the bid total amounts stored in the bid information storage unit,

the successful bid processing unit including,

a successful bid price determination unit_operable to determine ~~which determines~~ the same successful bid price to all the successful bidders; and

a successful bid number determination unit operable to determine ~~which determines~~ successful bid numbers to all the successful bidders;

wherein when

(i) a cumulative bid number of the bid numbers or a cumulative bid amount of the

bid amounts by the plurality of bidders exceeds the subscription total number or the subscription total amount, respectively, and

(ii) a plurality of bidders present bids that generate said excess and the plurality of bidders exceeding the subscription total number or the subscription total amount present the same bid unit price,

then the successful bid number determination unit is operable

(a) to determine successful bid numbers of all the bidders who present the same bid unit price as that of the bidder that generates said excess, by proportionally allocating a successful bid number remaining at the time when the excess occurred according to the respective bid numbers of the bidders, or

(b) to select, by lot, successful bidders from the plurality of bidders who present the same bid price as that of the bidder that generate the excess.

31.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 30, wherein

~~when a subscription total number is stored as a condition for inviting bids,~~ the successful bid price determination unit is operable

to calculate the ~~calculates a~~ cumulative bid number ~~of the bid~~ or the cumulative bid amount (1) until ~~when the~~ the cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount reaches the subscription total number or the subscription total amount, respectively, in the order of bidders of high bid unit prices, or (2) until the ~~when the~~ calculation for all the bidders is finished, ~~whichever satisfies earlier the price determination condition,~~ and

to determine ~~determines~~ the bid unit prices presented by the bidders, who are subjects of ~~that becomes the basis of~~ the calculation when the ~~price determination condition is satisfied~~ calculation of the cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount is completed, as the successful bid price.

32.   (canceled)

33.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing apparatus according to

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~~claim 1~~ claim 30, wherein

~~when a~~ when the bid total amount is included in bid information stored in the bid information storage unit ~~stored as a condition for inviting bids~~, the successful bid price determination unit is operable to recalculate ~~recalculates~~ a bid number of each bidder accumulated so far, based on the bid unit price presented by a bidder that becomes a new basis of calculation, each time the ~~when the~~ cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount ~~of the bid number~~ is calculated.

34-35. (canceled)

36.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 30, wherein

the subscription information storage unit stores a unit number as a unit capable of allocating the transaction item to the bidders, and

the successful bid number determination unit is operable to carry ~~carries~~ up or ~~carries~~ down a successful bid number into an integer times of the unit number when the determined successful bid number is not an integer times of the unit number.

37.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 30, wherein

the bid information storage unit stores a lowest permissible purchase number as a lower limit of the successful bid number, and

the successful bid number determination unit is operable to set the ~~sets the~~ successful bid number to 0 when the determined successful bid number does not reach the lowest permissible purchase number.

38.   (canceled)

39.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 30, further comprising:

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a transaction item information storage unit which stores item information relating to the transaction item; and

a transmitting unit operable to transmit ~~which transmits~~ the item information stored in the transaction item information storage unit to at least one of the transaction terminal units ~~the client unit~~, based on a request made from the bidder via the at least one transaction terminal ~~client~~ unit.

40.   (canceled)

41.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing apparatus according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 39, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the successful bid processing unit further comprises:

a reference record storage unit which stores record information ~~relating to a record of the provision of the information by~~ when the transmitting unit transmits the item information to said at least one transaction terminal unit, and ~~wherein~~

~~the successful bid processing~~ a decision unit operable to decide ~~decides~~ whether the bidder has received the provision of the item information ~~relating to the transaction item~~, based on the record information stored in the reference record storage unit.

42.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 30, further comprising:

a bidder information storage unit which stores bidder information relating to the bidders;

a reference information storage unit which stores reference information that becomes a basis for selecting a bidder who can participate in the bidding for the predetermined transaction item; and

a selecting unit operable to select ~~which selects~~ a bidder who can participate in the bidding for the transaction item, based on the bidder information stored in the bidder information storage unit and the reference information stored in the reference information storage unit.

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43.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 30, further comprising:

a transaction amount calculating unit ~~which~~ operable to calculate ~~calculates~~ a transaction amount when the bidder has been successful in the bid for the transaction item, based on the bid unit price and the bid number posted from the bidder; and

a communication unit operable to transmit ~~which transmits~~ the transaction amount calculated by the transaction amount calculating unit~~, to the bidder via the client~~ to the transaction terminal unit of said bidder.

44-46. (canceled)

47.   **(currently amended)** A transaction terminal unit for transmitting/receiving information relating to a predetermined transaction item to/from ~~a predetermined~~ the transaction information processing apparatus according to claim 30 connected thereto via a network, the transaction terminal unit comprising:

an input interface for allowing a bidder to selectively input ~~which selectively inputs~~ either (i) a bid unit price and a bid number, or (ii) a bid unit price and a bid total amount in a bid for~~, as the bid contents to~~ the transaction item; and

a transmitting unit for transmitting ~~which transmits~~ either (i) the bid unit price and the bid number, or (ii) the bid unit price and the bid total amount that have been input via the ~~to the~~ input interface, to the transaction information processing apparatus via the network.

48.   (canceled)

49.   **(currently amended)** A transaction information processing method~~, executed on a predetermined transaction information processing apparatus,~~ for processing information relating to a predetermined transaction item, the method comprising:

a subscription condition storage step of storing a subscription total number or a subscription total amount as a condition for inviting bids for the transaction item;

a bid condition storage step of receiving a bid unit price and a bid number or a bid total amount <u>relating to the transaction item transmitted by each of a plurality of bidders from respective transaction terminal units</u> via the network, and storing the received information; and

a successful bid <u>number determination</u> ~~processing~~ step of <u>determining</u> ~~carrying out~~ a successful bid <u>number</u> ~~processing~~ of the transaction item, based on the subscription total number or the subscription total amount stored at the subscription condition storage step, and the bid unit price and the bid number or the bid total amount stored at the bid condition storage step,

wherein, in the successful bid <u>number determination</u> ~~processing~~ step<u>,</u> ~~including, a successful bid price determination step of determining the same successful bid price to all the successful bidders; and~~

~~a successful bid number determination step of determining successful bid numbers to all the successful bidders~~

<u>when</u>

<u>(i) a cumulative bid number of the bid numbers or a cumulative bid amount of the bid amounts by the plurality of bidders exceeds the subscription total number or the subscription total amount, respectively, and</u>

<u>(ii) a plurality of bidders present bids that generate said excess and the plurality of bidders exceeding the subscription total number or the subscription total amount present the same bid unit price,</u>

<u>then</u>

<u>(a) successful bid numbers of all the bidders, who present the same bid unit price as that of the bidder that generates said excess, are determined by proportionally allocating a successful bid number remaining at the time when the excess occurred according to the respective bid numbers of the bidders, or</u>

<u>(b) successful bidders are selected, by lot, from the plurality of bidders who present the same bid price as that of the bidder that generate the excess.</u>

50.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing method according to ~~claim~~

~~20~~ claim 49, ~~wherein~~ further comprising

~~at the~~ a successful bid price determination step, wherein

when the ~~when a~~ subscription total number is stored as a condition for inviting ~~bids, a~~ bids,

then

(I) the cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount ~~of the bid~~ is calculated (1) until the ~~when the~~ cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount reaches the subscription total number or the subscription total amount, respectively, in the order of bidders of high bid unit prices, or (2) until the ~~when the~~ calculation for all the bidders is finished, ~~whichever satisfies earlier the price determination condition,~~ and

(II) the bid unit price presented by the bidders, who are subjects of ~~that becomes the basis of~~ the calculation when the calculation of the cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount is completed ~~price determination condition is satisfied~~, is determined as the successful bid price.

51.   (canceled)

52.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing method according to ~~claim 20~~ claim 49, further comprising ~~wherein~~

~~at the~~ a successful bid price determination step, wherein

when the ~~when a~~ bid total number or the bid total amount is stored ~~as a condition for inviting bids~~,

then a bid number of each bidder accumulated so far is recalculated based on the bid unit price presented by a bidder that becomes a new basis of calculation, each time the ~~when the~~ cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount ~~of the bid number~~ is calculated.

53-55. (canceled)

56.   **(currently amended)** The transaction information processing method according to ~~claim~~

20 claim 49, further comprising:

a bidder information setting step of setting bidder information relating to the bidders;

a reference information setting step of setting reference information that becomes a basis for selecting a bidder who can participate in the bidding for the predetermined transaction item; and

a selection step of selecting a bidder who can participate in the bidding for the transaction item, based on the bidder information set at the bidder information setting step and the reference information set at the reference information setting step.

57.   (canceled)

58.   **(currently amended)** A computer readable medium storing therein for storing instructions, which when executed by a computer cause the computer on a predetermined transaction information processing apparatus, causes the predetermined transaction information processing apparatus to perform as:

a subscription condition storage unit which stores step of storing a subscription total number or a subscription total amount as a condition for inviting bids for a predetermined for the transaction item;

a bid condition storage unit operable to receive step of receiving a bid unit price and a bid number or a bid total amount relating to the transaction item transmitted by each of a plurality of bidders via a via the network, and to store storing the received information; and

a successful bid processing unit operable to carry step of carrying out a successful bid processing of the transaction item, based on the subscription total number or the subscription total amount stored in the at the subscription condition storage unit, and step, and the bid unit price and the bid number or the bid total amount stored in the at the bid condition storage unit, step,

the successful bid processing step including, unit comprising:

a successful bid price determination unit operable to determine step of

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~~determining~~ the same successful bid price to all the successful bidders; and

a successful bid number determination <u>unit operable to determine</u> ~~step of determining~~ successful bid numbers to all the successful bidders<u>;</u>

<u>wherein when</u>

<u>(i) a cumulative bid number of the bid numbers or a cumulative bid amount of the bid amounts by the plurality of bidders exceeds the subscription total number or the subscription total amount, respectively, and</u>

<u>(ii) a plurality of bidders present bids that generate said excess and the plurality of bidders exceeding the subscription total number or the subscription total amount present the same bid unit price,</u>

<u>then the successful bid number determination unit is operable</u>

<u>(a) to determine successful bid numbers of all the bidders who present the same bid unit price as that of the bidder that generates said excess, by proportionally allocating a successful bid number remaining at the time when the excess occurred according to the respective bid numbers of the bidders, or</u>

<u>(b) to select, by lot, successful bidders from the plurality of bidders who present the same bid price as that of the bidder that generate the excess.</u>

59.   (**New**) A transaction information processing apparatus that is connected to a plurality of transaction terminal units via a network, for processing information relating to a predetermined transaction item, the transaction information processing apparatus comprising:

a subscription information storage unit which stores a subscription total number or a subscription total amount as a condition for inviting bids for the transaction item;

a reference information storage unit which stores reference information that becomes a basis for selecting a bidder who can participate in the bidding for the transaction item;

a bidder information storage unit which stores bidder information relating to each bidder and being transmitted from the bidder via the respective transaction terminal unit;

a selecting unit operable to select a bidder who can participate in the bidding for

the transaction item, based in the bidder information stored in the bidder information storage unit and the reference information stored in the reference information storage unit;

a subscription information transmitting unit operable to transmit the subscription information to the transaction terminal unit of the bidder selected by the selecting unit;

a bid information storage unit which stores a bid unit price and a bid total number or a bid total amount transmitted from the transaction terminal unit of the bidder selected by the selecting unit; and

a successful bid processing unit operable to carry out a successful bid processing of the transaction item, based on the subscription total number or the subscription total amount stored in the subscription information storage unit, and on either the bid unit prices and the bid numbers, or the bid unit prices and the bid total amounts stored in the bid information storage unit, wherein

the successful bid processing unit includes

a successful bid price determination unit for determining the same successful bid price to all the successful bidders, and

a successful bid number determination unit for determining successful bid numbers to all the successful bidders.

60.   (**New**) A transaction information processing apparatus that is connected to a plurality of transaction terminal units via a network, for processing information relating to a predetermined transaction item, the transaction information processing apparatus comprising:

a subscription information storage unit which stores a subscription total number or a subscription total amount as a condition for inviting bids for the transaction item;

a bid information storage unit which stores either a bid unit price and a bid number, or a bid unit price and a bid total amount transmitted from the transaction terminal units of a plurality of bidders; and

a successful bid processing unit operable to carry out a successful bid processing of the transaction item, based on the subscription total number or the subscription total

amount stored in the subscription information storage unit, and on either the bid unit prices and the bid numbers, or the bid unit prices and the bid total amounts stored in the bid information storage unit, wherein

the successful bid processing unit includes

a successful bid number determination unit which is operable

(i)   to determine successful bid numbers, and

(ii)   when the bid total amount is included in bid information stored in the bid information storage unit, to recalculate a bid number of each bidder accumulated so far, based on the bid unit price presented by a bidder that becomes a new basis of calculation, each time the cumulative bid number or a cumulative bid amount is calculated; and

a successful bid price determination unit for determining the same successful bid price to all the successful bidders.

61.   (New) The transaction information processing apparatus according to claim 60, wherein the successful bid price determination unit is operable

to calculate the cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount (1) until the cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount reaches the subscription total number or the subscription total amount, respectively, in the order of bidders of high bid unit prices, or (2) until the calculation for all bidders is finished, and

to determine the bid unit prices presented by the bidders, who are subjects of the calculation when the calculation of the cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount is completed, as the successful bid price.

62.   (New) The transaction information processing apparatus according to claim 60, wherein when the bid total number or the bid total amount is stored, the successful bid price determination unit is operable to recalculate a bid number of each bidder accumulated so far, based on the bid unit price presented by a bidder that becomes a new basis of calculation, each time the cumulative bid number or the cumulative bid amount is calculated.

63.   **(New)** The transaction information processing apparatus according to claim 60, further comprising

a bidder information setting unit which sets bidder information relating to the bidders;

a reference information setting unit which sets reference information that becomes a basis for selecting a bidder who can participate in the bidding for the predetermined transaction item; and

a selection unit operable to select a bidder who can participate in the bidding for the transaction item, based on the bidder information set by the bidder information setting unit and the reference information set by the reference information setting unit.